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Letter dated 6 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to my letter dated 3 October 2018 (S/2018/891) regarding the terrorist attack that occurred on 22 September 2018 in Ahvaz, Islamic Republic of Iran, and with regard to the letter dated 5 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/888), I would like to bring the following to your attention:

In his letter, the Representative of Saudi Arabia has tried to divert attention away from the rising worldwide outcry over the destabilizing behaviour of his country. The spread of Saudi-inspired and financed takfiri extremism and terrorism in the region, as well as its illegitimate war against Yemen, which has ignited the worst humanitarian crisis of the world, are just two examples of how the destabilizing acts of Saudi Arabia fuel insecurity and instability in the Middle East.

In accordance with its Constitution, as well as its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran fully respects the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States. However, holding the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bringing them to justice cannot and should in no way be considered an interference in the internal affairs of other States. In this regard, the call by the Security Council in its presidential statement, dated 24 September 2018, on all States to cooperate actively with the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran is reiterated.

The unfounded claim against Iran regarding "harbouring of the most wanted terrorist figures in the world" is rejected and condemned in the strongest terms. This amusing claim is made while, according to well-established facts, a significant number of those most wanted terrorist figures in the world are either nationals of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or have been widely supported, financially and ideologically, by that country.

It shall be highlighted that the fabricated information contained in document S/2018/705 against the Islamic Republic of Iran, referred to in the letter of the Saudi Representative, comes from a few well-known regional States pursuing a hostile policy towards Iran. Iran is a victim of foreign-backed terrorist activities and its leading role in combating terrorism, in particular in recent years in Syria and Iraq, is very well known.

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With regard to the baseless accusations against Iran contained in the said letter, including claims that Iran is supplying ballistic missiles to Yemen, I had broadly addressed and strongly rejected them in my previous letters to the President of the Security Council dated 8 August 2018 (S/2018/580), 4 June 2018 (S/2018/533), 4 May 2018 (S/2018/424), 12 April 2018 (S/2018/343), 29 March 2018 (S/2018/278), 21 February 2018 (S/2018/145) and 15 February 2018 (S/2018/123). I also reject a similar allegation made by an ally of Saudi Arabia in its aggression against Yemen in a letter dated 14 September 2018 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/847).

Unlike Saudi Arabia, which favours a military solution to the crisis in Yemen, the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently called for a peaceful resolution to this crisis from its very outbreak in 2015, as reflected in Security Council documents S/2015/263 and S/2017/949. The international community should compel Saudi Arabia to stop its reckless actions and destabilizing behaviours in the region, particularly its aggression, blatant war crimes and "using the threat of starvation as an instrument of war" against the people of Yemen.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is called upon to truly reconsider its hostile policies towards the Iranian people, to observe the principle of good-neighbourliness, to respect international law and to avoid policies that spread hatred and sectarianism in the region and beyond.

A secure, stable and prosperous Middle East is the guiding principle of the Iranian regional policy. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always called for solving regional differences in the wider Persian Gulf region through diplomacy and to that end has proposed establishing a "regional dialogue forum", which remains valid. The Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to engage in genuine dialogue with its neighbours in order to promote regional security and stability.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative